

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 22, 2013

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro,

Staff Present: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Finance Cherie Trahan,

Mayor Paterson provided information regarding new budget numbers from the Legislative Appropriation Committee which indicate a significant decrease in State aid to Mansfield. The Mayor noted that these are preliminary numbers and that the final numbers may not be available until early June.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Jill Coughlin from the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis stated her support for the Mansfield Advocates for Children Data Concordance Report as she will not be able to attend the later meeting of the Council.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, presented a list of budget concerns she asked the Council to review. (Statement attached)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, questioned the lack of Council oversight on the budget and urged the playground projects be eliminated from the school maintenance program.

Art Smith, Mulberry Road, asked for an explanation of how the Town uses the Resident State Troopers regarding received complaints.

III. STAFF REPORTS

The Town Manager and Director of Finance reviewed a number of handouts pertaining to the latest state revenue projections including:

- FY2014 Appropriation Committee Proposed Budget Impact on Mansfield
- Estimated Tax Warrant and Levy scenarios given the possible new budget numbers
- Expenditure Budget Summary reflecting the possible new budget numbers

IV. ADOPTION OF BUDGET AND RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS

Ms. Keane read a statement (attached) and offered the following motions:

As a matter of policy, Mansfield will not add positions or expand hours on present positions in FY 2013-2014.

As a matter of policy, Mansfield will not increase the amount of money allocated to the Board of Education in FY2013-2014 from that allocated in 2012-2013.

The motions were seconded by Mr. Freudmann.

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Council members discussed whether the motion would eliminate overtime, and the role of the part time inspectors for the Storrs Center project. Ms. Keane stated eliminating overtime was not her intention.

Mr. Shapiro raised a point of order stating the proposed motions are not in order. The motions concern a discussion of policy, not the adoption of the budget as indicated on the agenda, and since this is a special meeting new agenda items may not be added.

The Mayor sustained the point of order.

Ms. Keane, in agreement with the ruling, withdrew her motion.

The Town Manager will prepare an estimated summary of the impact of the changes outlined by Ms. Trahan including the changes to programs and the elimination of the additional hours and positions proposed in the Town Manager's Budget. Information regarding the responses from the Boards of Education will be provided as received.

Ms. Trahan has asked the State for clarification regarding the formulae used for the Minimum Budget Requirement and how this calculation would be affected by changes to the Boards' of Education budgets.

The Town Manager will ask the Chair of the Mansfield Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to attend the next budget meeting.

V. NEXT STEPS

The Council will meet on Wednesday April 24, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at which time the adoption of a budget and appropriations will be discussed. By consensus the Council agreed the agenda would mirror tonight's agenda.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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